

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00
COME-00 ERDA-05 NRC-05 CU-02 BIB-01 OES-07 FEAE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /106 W
-----061159Z 021369 /46

R 051320Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4711
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
USMISSION NATO

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E O 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR GE CZ
SUBJ: STOPH'S CZECHOSLOVAKIAN VISIT: ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND
POLITICAL THEMES

REF: PRAGUE 1120

1. EAST GERMAN NEWS COVERAGE OF THE STOPH VISIT TO
THE CSSR WAS RELATIVELY HEAVY AND EXTENDED TO A ROUND-
UP PIECE IN THE WEEKLY HORIZONT ON MAY 4. THIS PIECE
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HIGHLIGHTS THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND SCIENTIFIC-
TECHNOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE VISIT. THERE
IS AN EVIDENT ATTEMPT IN GDR NEWS COVERAGE TO PICTURE
CSSR-GDR RELATIONS AS CLOSE AND EVEN MORE FRIENDLY AS A
RESULT OF STOPH'S VISIT.

2. THE CZECH ATTACHE IN EAST BERLIN HAS PROVIDED

THE FOLLOWING DETAILS ON THE TALKS:

A) ECONOMIC - THE FOCUS OF THE TALKS WERE UPON COOPERATION IN THE YEARS BEYOND 1980 ALTHOUGH SOME CURRENT SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED (SEE BELOW). HE NOTED THAT THE CZECHS WERE SECOND AMONG EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES (AFTER THE SOVIET UNION) IN THE MANUFACTURE OF NUCLEAR POWER GENERATING EQUIPMENT AND IMPLIED THAT THE CZECHS ARE INVOLVED IN PLANS FOR FUTURE ATOMIC POWER PLANTS IN THE GDR. (A GDR PLANT AT GRIEFSWALD IS WITH SOVIET ASSISTANCE.) TWO SPECIFIC PROJECTS WERE DISCUSSED: THE SUPPLY OF POLYETHYLENE TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE PLANS TO JOINTLY MANUFACTURE A SKODA-WARTBURG AUTOMOBILE BEGINNING IN 1980. ON THE FORMER, THE CONTACT SAID THERE HAD BEEN DIFFICULTIES IN SUPPLYING POLYETHYLENE TO THE CSSR FROM (THE BOEHLEN) PLANT SINCE THE PLANT (CONSTRUCTED BY FRG AND SWISS FIRM) HAD NEVER REACHED FULL CAPACITY. DELIVERIES, THROUGH THE 130 KILOMETER (BOEHLEN-ZALUZI) PIPELINE FROM THE GDR TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, WERE BEHIND SCHEDULE. ON THE LATTER, HE SAID THAT PLANS WERE FOR THE CZECHS TO SUPPLY THE MOTORS FOR THE CARS AND THE EAST GERMANS TO SUPPLY THE AXLES, BODIES, ETC. THE CARS ARE TO BE ASSEMBLED IN A PLANT TO BE BUILT NEAR KARL MARX STADT AND THE TARGET IS AN ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF 700,000 VEHICLES IN 1000, 1200 AND 1500 CUBIC CENTIMETER MODELS.

B) POLITICAL - THE ATTACHE STATED THAT ONE OF THE MAIN TOPICS WAS RELATIONS WITH THE FRG. HE NOTED THAT CZECH-FRG RELATIONS WERE AT A LOW POINT BECAUSE OF RADIO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BROADCASTS BEAMED AT CZECHOSLOVAKIA FROM THE FRG (HE DID NOT MENTION AMERICANS BROADCASTS). THE CONTACT STATED THAT WHILE BREZHNEV MAY VISIT BONN THIS YEAR THAT HUSAK CERTAINLY WOULD NOT. HE CONFIRMED THAT HUSAK WOULD BE COMING TO BERLIN IN LATE SEPTEMBER AND EARLY OCTOBER TO SIGN AN UPDATED VERSION OF THE GDR-CSSR TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP SIMILAR TO THOSE CONCLUDED SINCE 1975 WITH OTHER EASTERN COUNTRIES, (THE SOVIET UNION, HUNGARY, AND MONGOLIA THUS FAR). THE ATTACHE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE WARSAW PACT FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD BE MEETING IN MOSCOW WITH MONTH IN PREPARATION FOR BELGRADE.

3. COMMENT: THE CZECH ATTACHE'S COMMENTS WOULD SEEM TO CONFIRM THE WIDE-RANGING NATURE OF THE TALKS DESPITE THE PUBLIC EMPHASIS UPON ECONOMIC MATTERS. IDEOLOGICAL DISCUSSIONS, IF THEY TOOK PLACE, ARE NOT INDICATED IN THE PRESS REPORTS. CSCE IS HOWEVER MENTIONED IN THE GDR COVERAGE AND THE CZECH ATTACHE'S PINPOINTING OF THE FRG,

SPECIFICALLY HIS CRITICISM OF FRG RADIO BROADCASTS,
SUGGESTS A BROADER DISCUSSION OF POINTS FOR THE BELGRADE
CONFERENCE.POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, PRESS COMMENTS, PARTY LEADERS, VISITS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BERLIN05946
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770159-0855
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770592/aaaadbbm.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8c358c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PRAGUE 1120
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2635914
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STOPH'S CZECHOSLOVAKIAN VISIT: ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND POLITICAL THEMES
TAGS: PFOR, GC, CZ, (STOPH, WILLI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8c358c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009